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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kohei ABUKAWA

Appln. No. 09/821,020

Group Art Unit: 1762

Confirmation No.: 5550

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: March 30, 2001

For: SILICON NITRIDE MEMBER, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME,  
AND CUTTING TOOL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under § 1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**U.S. Appln. No. 09/821,020**

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Communication (European Search Report No. 01303041 dated July 9, 2001) from a Foreign Patent Office citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication from a Foreign Patent Office indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 16, 2001